

## **PATENT APPLICATION**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of:              | )                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                    | : Examiner: K. A. Moore  |
| Yutaka TANAKA et al.               | )                        |
|                                    | : Group Art Unit: 1763   |
| Application No.: 10/824,422        | )                        |
|                                    | : Confirmation No.: 6472 |
| Filed: April 15, 2004              | )                        |
| ;                                  | :                        |
| For: PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR      | )                        |
| PROCESSING SAMPLE IN PREDETERMINED | : January 18, 2006       |
| ATMOSPHERE                         | )                        |

## Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: